details of important projects proposed to be commissioned to achieve the target are given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal**:** There is a target for opening 3 Departmental sub-post Offices and 35 extra Departmental Branch Post Offices during the Annual Plan 1997-98 subject to availability of resources. The details of developmental projects are given in Annexure in respect of opening of Post Offices and in respect of Building Projects.

(d) and (e)

Telecom: The proposed development projects for 1997-98 are expected to be executed as planned and their present status is given in *Annexure-[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal: (i) Building Projects:- The details of proposals submitted by Maharashtra Circle have been prioritised and are under various stages of examination. The status of ongoing Projects with reasons for delay is given in Annexure-[See *Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

(ii) Opening of Post Offices: The details of proposals for opening of Post Offices submitted by Maharashtra Circle alongwith action taken/present position are given in Annexure *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]* The reasons for non-sanctioning is that the power to create posts does not vest with the Departments, as a result of which the cases have been taken up with the Ministry of Finance. No approval has so far been received from them.

(f) Yes, Sir, A target for opening of 38 Post Offices has been fixed for Maharashtra Circle which would include those to be opened in the Suburban areas of Mumbai subject to availability of resources. Moreover, certain proposals have been received from Maharashtra Circle for Building Projects and are under various stages of examination.

Roads in North-Eastern Region

* 117. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering introduction of Build-Operate-Transfer scheme for development of roads in North-Eastern region in general and Assam in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Private investments in the development of National Highways under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme is in operation throughout the country, including the North-Eastern region. However, no such proposal has come up for consideration in the North-Eastern region, including the State of Assam.

Recruitment Policy in Department of Posts

*118. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has no uniform recruitment policy, instead the department had been having a fluctuating recruitment policy for the past several decades; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by his Ministry to bring a uniform recruitment policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Transport Facilities along Mumbai's Coastal Line

* 119. SHRIMATI **MALTI** SHARMA:

PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Maharashtra is making elaborate plans for developing water transport facilities along the Mumbai's coastal line for carrying passengers as well as cargo;

(b) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for any assistance for the said project; and

(c) if so, the nature of assistance asked for and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN):